

Bahamas

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Bahamas GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Bahamas could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Bahamas GYTS was a school- based survey of students in grades 8-12, conducted in 2004.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Bahamas. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 96%, the student response rate was 86.9%, and the overall response rate was 83.5%. A total of 1,518 students participated in the Bahamas GYTS.

Prevalence

26.5% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 28.4%, Girls = 23.9%)
 15.5% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 17.3%, Girls = 12.7%)
 6.1% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 7.2%, Girls = 4.2%)
 11.7% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 13.2%, Girls = 9.8%)
 19.6% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

34.6% think boys and 14.8% think girls who smoke have more friends
 7.6% think boys and 3.8% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

36.3% usually smoke at home
 22.2% buy cigarettes in a store
 * who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

21.6% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 50.6% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 71.4% think smoking should be banned from public places
 66.3% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 24.5% have one or more parents who smoke
 4.8% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

66.8% want to stop smoking
 65.3% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 53.5% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

81.3% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 56.9% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
 55.4% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 16.2% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 10.6% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

47.3% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 31.5% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 42.1% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 15.5% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 6.1% currently smoke cigarettes; 11.7% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- ETS exposure is high – over 2 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; 5 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; more than 2 in 10 have parents who smoke.
- More than 6 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Over 7 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Over 6 in 10 smokers want to stop smoking.
- 8 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; almost 6 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards in the past 30 days.

* denotes cell size less than 35.